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FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9261  
INFO RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE 7791  
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE 0903  
RUEHJS/ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS PRIORITY  
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING PRIORITY 5129  
RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA PRIORITY 2635  
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY 2092  
RUEHWL/AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON PRIORITY 2740  
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L JAKARTA 001142

SIPDIS

DEPT FOR EAP, EAP/MTS, EAP/MLS, IO/RHS (OSTERMEIER),  
DRL/MLGA (SICADE)  
NSC FOR E.PHU

E.O. 12958: DECL: 06/11/2018

TAGS: [PREL](#) [PHUM](#) [ID](#)

SUBJECT: UN HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL -- INDONESIAN RESPONSE TO  
USG DISENGAGEMENT

REF: STATE 61034

Classified By: Acting Pol/C Stanley A. Harsha for reasons 1.4 (b+d).

[1](#)1. (C) SUMMARY: Mission has informed the GOI of the decision by the Government of the United States to disengage from participation in the UN Human Rights Council (HRC) due to the HRC's continued politicization and double standards. Indonesian interlocutors agreed that the HRC had problems but expressed disappointment that the USG would no longer play a role in that forum. END SUMMARY

[1](#)2. (C) Poloff delivered reftel message to Diana Sari Sutikno, Head of the Subdirector for Civil and Political Rights Mechanisms at the Department of Foreign Affairs (DEPLU) on June 10. Poloff stressed that the UN Human Rights Council (HRC) had fallen prey to the same problems--politicization and double standards--that had bedeviled its predecessor, the UN Human Rights Commission. As a result, the USG could no longer participate in the HRC.

[1](#)3. (C) Explaining the decision, poloff underscored that the HRC had failed to take firm action on key human rights issues, including in Iran and Zimbabwe, and had eliminated the mandate for Special Rapporteurs. Poloff also stressed that the HRC had issued numerous unbalanced resolutions regarding Israel, further proof that the HRC had become politicized.

[1](#)4. (C) Sutikno said Indonesia was disappointed that the USG would no longer play an active part in the HRC. She conceded, however, that the "old habits of politicization and double standards" plagued the HRC. Indonesia had sought to push the HRC to function in a more impartial and less politicized fashion--as its creators had intended--and would continue to do so. The USG might have a better chance to influence the HRC toward reform if the USG remained engaged, Sutikno suggested. Indonesia looked forward to future cooperation with the USG on human rights in other fora and hoped that the USG could someday reengage with the HRC.

HUME